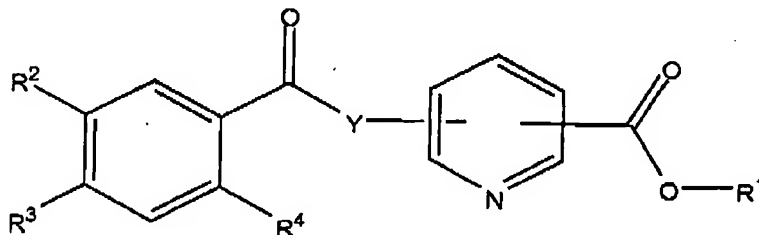


**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method of enhancing the stability during  
administration of multiple unit dosages of a compound of Formula I:



Formula I

wherein

R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub>-alkyl;

R<sup>2</sup> is C<sub>1-6</sub>-alkyl or adamantyl;

R<sup>3</sup> is C<sub>1-6</sub>-alkyl or hydroxy; or

R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> taken together are -(CR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>)<sub>n</sub>;

R<sup>4</sup> is C<sub>2-8</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>2-8</sub>-alkenyl, C<sub>2-8</sub>-alkynyl, -OCH<sub>2</sub>R<sup>5</sup> or C<sub>2-8</sub>-alkanoyl, or hydrogen when R<sup>3</sup> is hydroxy;

R<sup>5</sup> is C<sub>1-6</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>-alkenyl or C<sub>2-6</sub>-alkynyl;

R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> are hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub>-alkyl;

Y is oxygen or sulfur; and

n is 3, 4, or 5,

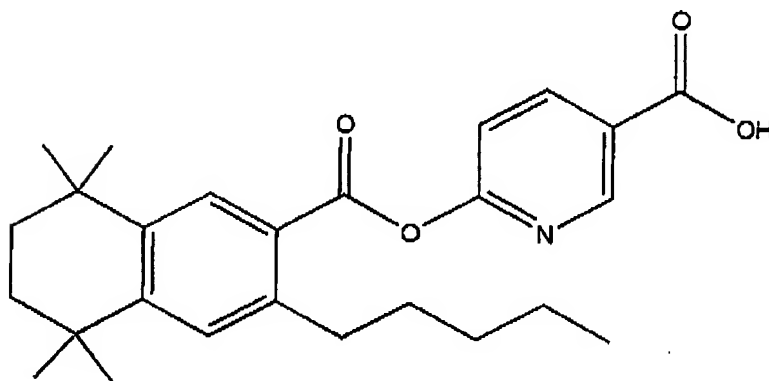
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salts of carboxylic acid of formula I,

wherein said method comprises the step of admixing multiple unit dosages of said compound in solid form with a topical carrier to form a topical formulation within forty-eight hours~~seven days~~ prior to first topical administration of said formulation, and

Claims 11 – 20 (cancelled)

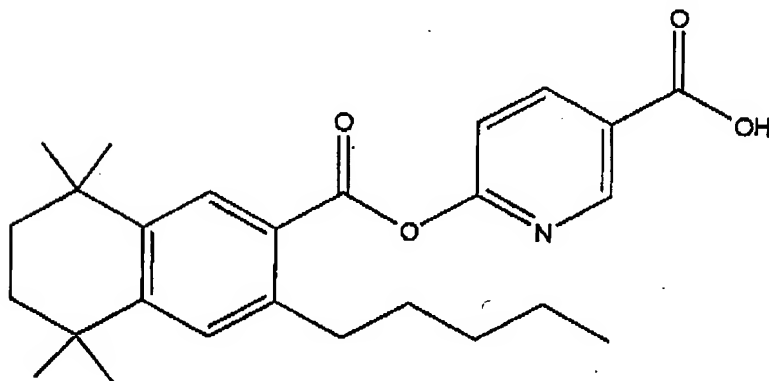
21. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises admixing said formulation comprising said compound with a cream or a gel.

22. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 1, wherein said compound is



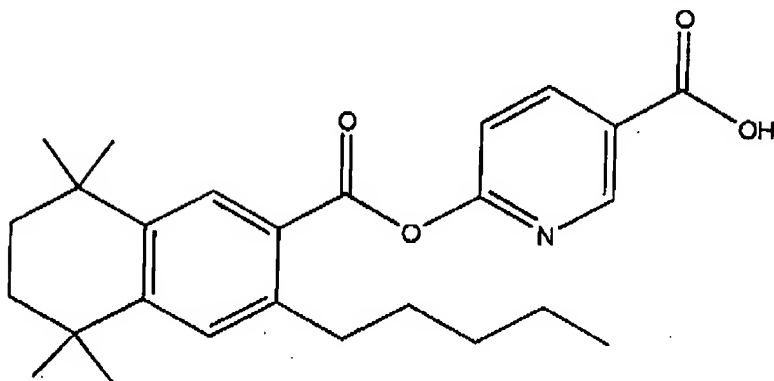
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

23. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 2, wherein said compound is



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

24. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 3, wherein said compound is

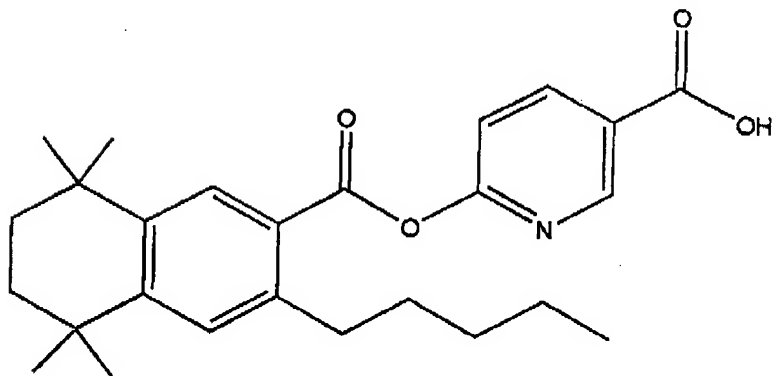


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

25. (Canceled)

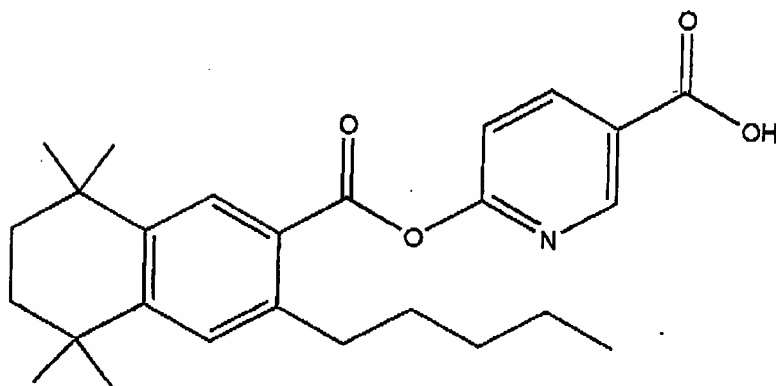
26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 6, wherein said compound is



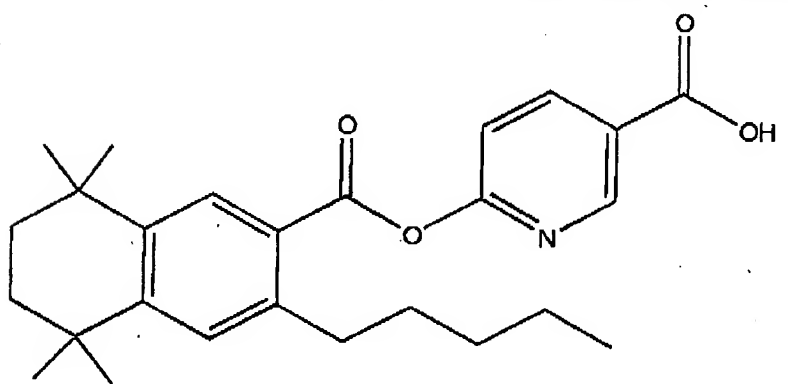
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

28. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 7, wherein said compound is



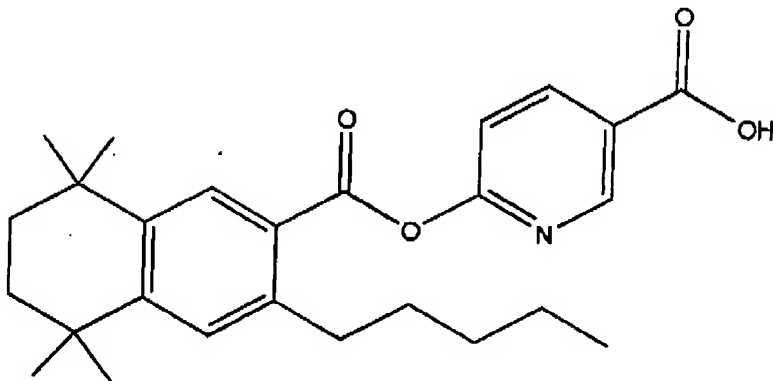
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

29. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 9, wherein said compound is



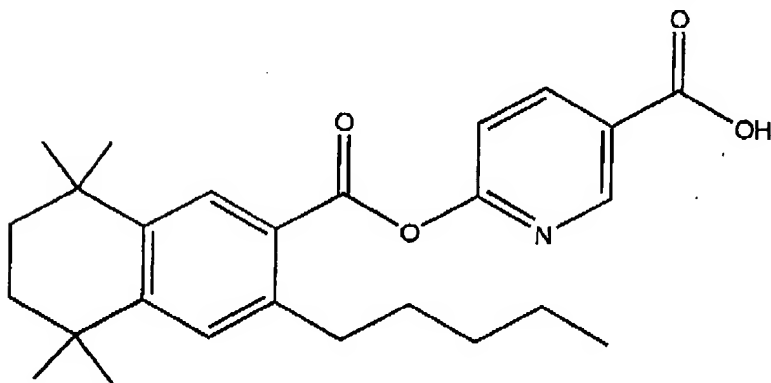
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

30. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 10, wherein said compound is



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

31. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 21, wherein said compound is

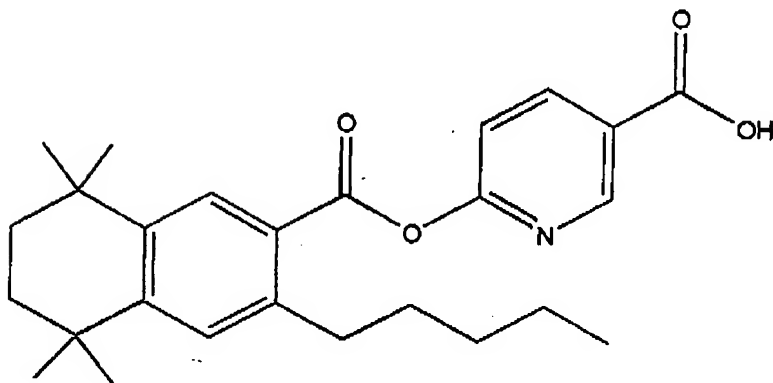


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

32. (New) A method of claim 1; wherein said topical carrier comprises a member selected from the group consisting of diisopropyl adipate, diisopropyl sebacate, diisocetyl adipate, triacetin, caprylic/capric triglyceride, and isopropyl myristate.

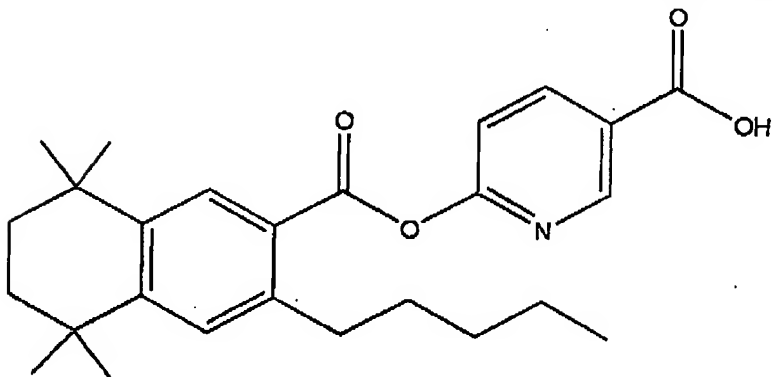
33. (New) A method of claim 32, wherein said formulation comprises about 0.01% to about 0.1%, by weight, of said compound.

34. (New) A method of claim 32, wherein said compound is



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

35. (New) A method of claim 33, wherein said compound is



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.